

1 **CLAIMS**

2 **1.** A method comprising:
3 identifying components associated with a first end point in an environment;
4 identifying components associated with a second end point in the
5 environment;
6 determining whether any of the identified components are associated with
7 both the first end point and the second end point;
8 identifying relationships between the first end point, the second end point,
9 and any components associated with both the first end point and the second end
10 point.

11
12 **2.** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the environment is a social
13 environment.

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15 **3.** A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising receiving a request
16 to identify relationships between the first end point and the second end point.

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18 **4.** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether any of
19 the identified components are associated with both the first end point and the
20 second end point includes determining a path strength for each path between the
21 first end point and the second end point.

1 5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether any of
2 the identified components are associated with both the first end point and the
3 second end point includes:

4 determining a path strength for each path between the first end point and
5 the second end point; and

6 ranking the paths between the first end point and the second end point
7 based on path strength.

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9 6. A method as recited in claim 5 further comprising ignoring paths
10 having a path strength below a predetermined threshold.

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12 7. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein identifying relationships
13 includes identifying only the top ranked paths between the first end point and the
14 second end point.

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16 8. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising displaying
17 relationships between the first end point, the second end point, and any
18 components associated with both the first end point and the second end point.

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20 9. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein displaying relationships
21 includes displaying information regarding at least one component.

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23 10. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein displaying relationships
24 includes displaying information regarding at least one link between components.
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1 **11.** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein displaying relationships
2 includes displaying a social context associated with the first end point and
3 displaying a social context associated with the second end point.

4
5 **12.** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein displaying relationships
6 includes:

7 displaying the first end point;
8 displaying the second end point; and
9 displaying at least one common component associated with the first end
10 point and the second end point.

11
12 **13.** A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
13 displaying a common component associated with the first end point and the
14 second end point;

15 displaying at least one link between the common component and the first
16 end point; and

17 displaying at least one link between the common component and the second
18 end point.

19
20 **14.** A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
21 displaying the first end point;
22 displaying the second end point;
23 displaying components associated with the first end point; and
24 displaying components associated with the second end point.
25

1 **15.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
2 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
3 1.

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5 **16.** A method comprising:
6 displaying a first end point;
7 displaying components associated with the first end point;
8 displaying a second end point;
9 displaying components associated with the second end point;
10 displaying a common component associated with the first end point and the
11 second end point;
12 displaying a link between the common component and the first end point;
13 and
14 displaying a link between the common component and the second end
15 point.

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17 **17.** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising:
18 determining a path strength associated with the common component; and
19 preventing the display of the common component if the path strength is
20 below a threshold.

1 **18.** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising:
2 displaying a second common component associated with the first end point
3 and the second end point;
4 displaying a link between the second common component and the first end
5 point; and
6 displaying a link between the second common component and the second
7 end point.

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9 **19.** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising displaying a
10 second link between the common component and the first end point.

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12 **20.** A method as recited in claim 19 further comprising:
13 determining a strongest link between the common component and the first
14 end point; and
15 highlighting the strongest link between the common component and the
16 first end point.

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18 **21.** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising:
19 displaying a second link between the common component and the first
20 endpoint; and
21 displaying a second link between the common component and the second
22 end point.

1 **22.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
2 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
3 16.

4
5 **23.** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
6 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one
7 or more processors to:

8 display a first end point in a social network;
9 display a second end point in a social network;
10 identify a common component associated with the first end point and the
11 second end point;
12 display the common component associated with the first end point and the
13 second end point;
14 display a link between the common component and the first end point; and
15 display a link between the common component and the second end point.

16
17 **24.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23
18 wherein the one or more processors further determine a path strength associated
19 with the common component and prevent display of the common component if the
20 path strength is below a threshold.

21
22 **25.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23
23 wherein the one or more processors further display a second link between the
24 common component and the first end point.
25

1 **26.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23
2 wherein the one or more processors further display a second link between the
3 common component and the first end point and display a second link between the
4 common component and the second end point.

5
6 **27.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23
7 wherein the one or more processors further identify a second common component
8 associated with the first end point and the second end point.

9
10 **28.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 23
11 wherein the one or more processors further display the second common
12 component associated with the first end point and the second end point.